

# The Merriam-Webster Dictionary

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HOME AND OFFICE EDITION

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## Cont

Preface

Explanatory Notes

Abbreviations Used in This

Pronunciation Symbols

A Dictionary of the English

Common English Given Na

Foreign Words and Phrases

Biographical Names

Geographical Names

Signs and Symbols

A Handbook of Style

Documentation of Sources

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**plop** *vb* **plopped**; **plop-ping** 1: to fall or move und like that of something dropping into water; set, drop, or throw heavily — **plop** *n* 1: a small area of ground 2: a ground of an area 3: the main story (as of a book) 4: a secret scheme: **INTRIGUE** **plot** *adj* **plotting** 1: to make a plot or plan of 'k on or as if on a chart 3: to plan or contrive etly — **plot-ter** *n* **plow** *n* **plow** *n*, **plow** *n* or **plowers** any of shore-inhabiting birds that differ from the s in having shorter stouter bills **plough** *n* **plough** *n* 1: an implement used to cut over, and partly break up soil 2: a device (as ow) operating like a plow **plough** *vb* 1: to open, break up, or work with : to move through like a plow (a ship) **plowing** *s* 3: to proceed laboriously — **plow-able** *adj* **plow-er** *n* **plow-boy** *n*: a boy who leads the horse : plow **plow-man**, **plowman** *n* 1: a man who guides a plow : laborer **plow-sher** *n*: a part of a plow that cuts the

**plow** *n*: a tactic intended to embarrass or frustrate **plow** *vb* 1: to pull off or out: **PICK**; also : to thing from 2: to play (an instrument) by e strings 3: TUG, TWITCH : an act or instance of plucking 2: **SPIRIT**

**plow-kæ** *adj* **pluck-ier**; **-est**: **COURAGEOUS** **plow** *n* 1: **STOPPER**; also : an obstructing mass of tobacco 3: a poor or worn-out horse 4 **plow** *n*: a lure with several hooks used in a device on the end of a cord for making al connection 7: a piece of favorable pub-

**plugged**; **plug-ging** 1: to stop, make tight, or inserting a plug 2: HIT, SHOOT 3: to pub-ly 4: **FLOD**, **DRUDGE** **plum** *n* [ME, fr. OE *plūme*, modif. of L *pru-*, fr. Gk *prōmnon*] 1: a smooth-skinned borne, by trees related to the peach and so : a tree bearing plums 2: a raisin when asserts (as puddings) 3: something excel- something desirable given in return for a

**plum-mij** *n*: the feathers of a bird — **plum-** *adj* **plumb** *n*: a weight on the end of a line (**plumb** esp. by builders to show vertical direction 1: **VERTICALLY** 2: **COMPLETELY** 3: **EXACT-** **IMMEDIATELY** to sound, adjust, or test with a plumb (~ of a well) 2: **VERTICAL** 2: **COMPLETE** **plumb-line** *n*: a worker who fits or repairs fixtures **plumb-line** *n*: a system of pipes in a building and carrying off water **plumb** *n*: **FEATHER**; esp: a large, conspicuous, eather — **plumed** *adj* — **plummy** *adj* **plumed**; **plum-ing** 1: to provide or deck rs 2: to indulge (oneself) in pride **plumb-line** *n*: **PLUMB**; also: **PLUMB LINE** : to drop or plunge straight down **plumb** *vb* 1: to drop or fall suddenly or heav- or something strongly (~ing for change) sudden heavy fall or blow; also: the sound

1: straight down; also: straight ahead 2 **REDLY**

**plump** *adj*: having a full rounded usu. pleasing form **plump** *syn* fleshy, stout, roly-poly, rotund — **plump-ness** *n* **plunder** *vb* **plunder** *vb*: to take the goods of by force or wrongfully: **PILLAGE** — **plun-der-er** *n* **plunder** *n*: something taken by force or theft: **LOOT** **plunge** *vb* **plunged**; **plung-ing** 1: **IMMERSE**, **SUBMERGE** 2: to enter or cause to enter a state or course of action suddenly or violently (~ into war) 3 : to cast oneself into or as if into water 4: to gamble heavily and recklessly 5: to descend suddenly **plunge** *n*: a sudden dive, leap, or rush **plunger** *n* **plunger** *n* 1: one that plunges 2: a sliding piece driven by or against fluid pressure: **PISTON** 3: a rubber cup on a handle pushed against an opening to free a waste outlet of an obstruction **plunk** *vb* **plunk** *vb* 1: to make or cause to make a hol- low metallic sound 2: to drop heavily or suddenly — **plunk** *n*

**pluperfect** *adj* [ME *pluperfith*, modif. of LL *plusquamperfectus*, lit., more than per- fect]: of, relating to, or constituting a verb tense that denotes an action or state as completed at or before a past time spoken of — **pluperfect** *n* **plural** *adj* [ME, fr. MF & L; MF *plural*, fr. L *pluralis*, fr. *plur-*, plus more]: of, relating to, or constituting a word form used to denote more than one — **plural** *n*

**plurality** *n* **plurality** *n*, **plurality** *n*, **plurality** *n* 1: the state of be- ing plural 2: an excess of votes over those cast for an opposing candidate 3: the greatest number of votes cast when not a majority **pluralize** *vb* **pluralize** *vb*: to make plu- ral or express in the plural form — **pluraliza-tion** *n* **plurality** *n* **plurality** *n* 1: mathematically positive 2: having or being in addition to what is anticipated 3: falling high in a specified range (a grade of B ~)

**plus** *n*, **pluses** *n* **plus** *n*, **pluses** *n* 1: a sign + (plus sign) used in mathematics to indicate addition or a positive quantity 2: an added quantity; also : a positive quality 3: **SURPLUS** **plus** *prep* 1: increased by: with the addition of (3 ~ 4) 2: **BESIDES** **plus** *conj*: **AND** (soup ~ salad and bread) **plush** *adj* **plush** *n*: a fabric with a pile longer and less dense than velvet pile — **plushy** *adj* **plush** *adj*: notably luxurious — **plush-ly** *adv* — **plush-ness** *n*

**Pluto** *n* **Pluto** *n*: the planet farthest from the sun — see **PLANET** table **plutocracy** *n* **plutocracy** *n*, **plutocracy** *n*, **plutocracy** *n* 1: government by the wealthy 2: a controlling class of the wealthy — **plutocrat** *n* **plutocrat** *n* — **plutocratic** *adj* **plutonium** *n* **plutonium** *n*: a radioactive chemical element formed by the decay of neptunium — see **ELEMENT** table **pluvial** *adj* **pluvial** *adj* 1: of or relating to rain 2 : characterized by abundant rain

**ply** *vb* **plied**; **ply-ing** 1: to use, practice, or work diligently (~ a trade) 2: to keep supplying something to (plied them with liquor) 3: to go or travel regularly esp. by sea **ply** *n*, **plies** *n* **ply** *n*, **plies** *n*: one of the folds, thicknesses, or strands of which something (as plywood or yarn) is made **ply** *vb* **plied**; **ply-ing**: to twist together (~ yarns) **Plymouth Rock** *n* **Plymouth Rock** *n*: any of an American breed of medium-sized single-combed domestic fowls **plywood** *n* **plywood** *n*: material made of thin sheets of wood glued and pressed together

**pm** *abbr* premium **Pm** *symbol* promethium **PM** *abbr* 1 paymaster 2 police magistrate 3 postmaster 4 post meridiem — often not cap. and often punctuated 5 postmortem 6 prime minister 7 provost mar- shal

**pmk** *abbr* postmark **PMS** *abbr* premenstrual syndrome **pmt** *abbr* payment **pneumatic** *n* **pneumatic** *n*, **pneumatic** *n*, **pneumatic** *n* 1: of, relating to, or using air or wind 2: moved by air pressure 3: filled with compressed air — **pneumatic-ally** *adv* **pneumo-co-ni-o-sis** *n* **pneumo-co-ni-o-sis** *n*, **pneumo-co-ni-o-sis** *n*: a disease of the lungs caused by habitual inhalation of irritant mineral or metallic particles **pneumonia** *n* **pneumonia** *n*, **pneumonia** *n*: an inflammatory disease of the lungs

**Po** *symbol* polonium **PO** *abbr* 1 petty officer 2 post office **poach** *vb* **poach** *vb* [ME *pochen*, fr. MF *pocher*, fr. OF *pochier*, lit., to put into a bag, fr. *pocher* bag, pocket, of Gmc origin]: to cook (as an egg or fish) in simmer- ing liquid **poach** *vb*: to hunt or fish unlawfully — **poach-er** *n* **POB** *abbr* post office box

**pock** *n* **pock** *n*: a small swelling on the skin (as in smallpox); also: a spot suggesting this **pocket** *n* **pocket** *n* 1: a small bag open at the top or side inserted in a garment 2: supply of money : MEANS 3: RECEPTACLE, CONTAINER 4: a small iso- lated area or group 5: a small body of ore — **pock-** *et-ful* *n*

**pocket** *vb* 1: to put in or as if in a pocket 2: **STEAL** **pocket** *adj* 1: small enough to fit in a pocket; also : SMALL, MINIATURE 2: carried in or paid from one's own pocket

**pocketbook** *n* **pocketbook** *n* 1: PURSE; also: **HANDBAG** 2: fi- nancial resources **pocketbook** *adj*: relating to money **pocket gopher** *n*: **GOPHER** 2 **pocket-knife** *n* **pocket-knife** *n*: a knife with a folding blade to be carried in the pocket

**pocket veto** *n*: an indirect veto of a legislative bill by an executive through retention of the bill unsigned until after adjournment of the legislature **pock-mark** *n* **pock-mark** *n*: a pit or scar caused by smallpox or acne — **pock-marked** *adj* **po-co** *n* **po-co** *n*, **po-co** *n*, **po-co** *n*, **po-co** *n*: **SOME-** **WHAT** — used to qualify a direction in music (~ al- legro)

**po-co** *n* **po-co** *n*, **po-co** *n*, **po-co** *n*, **po-co** *n*: **SOME-** **WHAT** — used to qualify a direction in music (~ al- legro) **po-co** *n* **po-co** *n*, **po-co** *n*, **po-co** *n*, **po-co** *n*: **SOME-** **WHAT** — used to qualify a direction in music (~ al- legro)

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**pod** *n* **pod** *n* 1: a dry fruit (as of a pea) that splits open when ripe 2: an external streamlined compartment (as for a jet engine) on an airplane 3: a compartment (as for personnel, a power unit, or an instrument) on a ship or craft

**POD** *abbr* pay on delivery **po-di-a-try** *n* **po-di-a-try** *n*, **po-di-a-try** *n*, **po-di-a-try** *n*: the medical care and treatment of the human foot — **po-di-a-trist** *n* **po-di-a-trist** *n*, **po-di-a-trist** *n*, **po-di-a-trist** *n*

**podium** *n* **podium** *n*, **podium** *n*, **podium** *n*: a raised platform or stage 1: a dais esp. for an orchestral conductor 2: **LECTERN** **POE** *abbr* port of entry

**po-em** *n* **po-em** *n*: a composition in verse **po-etry** *n* **po-etry** *n*, **po-etry** *n*, **po-etry** *n*: **POETRY** **po-et** *n* **po-et** *n* [ME, fr. OF *poete*, fr. L *poeta*, fr. Gk *poiētēs* maker, poet, fr. *poiein* to make]: a writer of poetry; also : a creative artist of great sensitivity

**po-et-aster** *n* **po-et-aster** *n*, **po-et-aster** *n*: an inferior poet **po-et-ess** *n* **po-et-ess** *n*, **po-et-ess** *n*: a girl or woman who is a poet **po-et-ic** *n* **po-et-ic** *n*, **po-et-ic** *n*: an outcome in which vice is punished and virtue rewarded usu. in a manner peculiarly or ironically appropriate

**po-et-ry** *n* **po-et-ry** *n*, **po-et-ry** *n*, **po-et-ry** *n*: **POEMS** — **po-et-ic** *n* **po-et-ic** *n*, **po-et-ic** *n*, **po-et-ic** *n*: **POETRY** **po-grom** *n* **po-grom** *n*, **po-grom** *n*, **po-grom** *n*: **DEVASTATION**; an organized massacre of helpless people and esp. of Jews

**poi** *n* **poi** *n*, **poi** *n*, **poi** *n*: a Hawaiian food of taro